

## Senate Resolution 506

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

**ADOPTED SENATE**

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Mental Health Continuum Care; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the commercial sexual exploitation of minors is often precipitated by  
4 undiagnosed mental health issues; and

5 WHEREAS, most commercially sexually exploited children suffer from a myriad of mental  
6 health problems including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, and  
7 sexually transmitted diseases; and

8 WHEREAS, many mental health issues are compounded by deficits in life skills such as  
9 conflict resolution, problem solving, anger management, and maintaining healthy  
10 relationships; and

11 WHEREAS, research has shown that early childhood trauma such as physical or sexual  
12 abuse, or both, affects normal ego development; and

13 WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish a solid understanding of how to best address these  
14 issues which, if left untreated, may establish a group of vulnerable adults that become a drain  
15 on social welfare programs; and

16 WHEREAS, in the interest of protecting Georgia's youth, it is fitting and proper to  
17 investigate and examine the services available across the public and private sectors capable  
18 of recognizing and treating mental health issues in minors.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate  
20 Study Committee on Mental Health Continuum Care to be composed of seven members of  
21 the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall

22 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall  
23 call all meetings of the committee.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
25 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action  
26 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
27 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
28 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
29 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee  
30 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of  
31 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by  
32 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.  
33 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds  
34 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and  
35 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be  
36 made on or before December 31, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on December  
37 31, 2009.